

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02273 031058Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 (ISO) W

----- 028767

R 031038Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7682

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: COLGATE-PALMOLIVE STRIKE ENDS

REF: A. BANGKOK 1880, B. BANGKOK 25378 75

1. THE TWELVE WEEK LONG STRIKE AT COLGATE-PALMOLIVE ENDED YESTER-
DAY WHEN MANAGEMENT AND STRIKE LEADERS REACHED A SETTLEMENT AS A
RESULT OF THE INTENSIVE MEDIATION OF A MEMBER OF THE PRIME
MINISTER'S STAFF. AFTER THE SLENDER HOPE FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE
RTG LABOR DEPARTMENT VANISHED, COLGATE MANAGEMENT FORWARDED A LETTER
TO THE PRIME MINISTER REQUESTING POLICE PROTECTION FOR THE PLANT
AND INDIVIDUALS WILLING TO RETURN TO WORK. AFTER AN INITIAL PERIOD
OF INDECISION, MEMBERS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STAFF ARRANGED FOR
REPRESENTATIVES OF MANAGEMENT AND STRIKING WORKERS TO ASSEMBLE IN
ADJOINING ROOMS WHILE DR. ATHIT VRAIRAT, DEFEATED NEW FORCE
CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF BANGKOK AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S
ADVISOR ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, PERFORMED SHUTTLE MEDIATION
TO BRING SIDES TOGETHER.

2. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SETTLEMENT INCLUDED AN EIGHT PERCENT
WAGE INCREASE, A 200 BAHT PER MONTH COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE,
A INTEREST-FREE
LOAN OF EIGHT WEEKS' SALAR TO BE REPAID OVER THIRTY MONTHS BEGIN-
NING IN MAY 1976 AND AMNESTY FOR ACTS CONSTITUTING UNFAIR LABOR
PRACTICES. STRIKE LEADERS HAD ORIGINALLY DEMANDED ANNUAL TEN PER-
CENT WAGE INCREASES, A THREE HUNDRED BAHT PER MONTH COL ALLOWANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02273 031058Z

CENT WAGE INCREASES, A THREE HUNDRED BAHT PER MONTH COL ALLOWANCE

AND A THREE MONTH YEAR-END BONUS. AS THE LATEST NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN, THEY ADDED DEMANDS FOR ABOLITION OF AN EXISTING PROVIDENT FUND, STRIKE PAY AND TOTAL AMNESTY FOR STRIKERS. IN RESOLVING THE STRIKE, DR. ATHIT EMPHASIZED COLGATE-PALMOLIVE EMPLOYEES WERE PRESENTLY WELL PAID AND THAT MANAGEMENT'S OFFER WAS FAIR. MANAGEMENT WAS REPEATEDLY TOLD "YOU CAN AFFORD THIS" -- A FACT MANAGEMENT READILY ADMITS.

3. THE FACT TWELVE WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE STRIKE BEGAN AND THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS STAFF HAD TO INTERVENE TO SETTLE A DISPUTE IN A NON-ESSENTIAL INDUSTRY EMPLOYING LESS THAN 150 PEOPLE POINTS UP THE PARALYSIS AFFECTING THE RTG LABOR DEPARTMENT, AND TO SOME EXTENT THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, BUSINESS FIRMS, LABOR STRIKES, STRIKE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO002273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-0938
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760289/aaaadamg.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 1880, 76 BANGKOK 25378
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COLGATE-PALMOLIVE STRIKE ENDS
TAGS: ELAB, TH, COLGATE-PALMOLIVE LTD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006